

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR
JOHN H. AVERY
CLERK / TREASURER
HUGH C. VINSON
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHRISTOPHER J. ADAMS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
MICHAEL E. HENRY
MICHAEL D. NORDSTROM

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK REGULAR SESSION MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2012

6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Spratt. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a non-sectarian prayer the roll call was taken. All Councilmembers, Mayor Spratt, Clerk Avery and Attorney Vinson were present.

Councilmember Cephas made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with a second by Councilmember Nordstrom. Motion passed, all in favor, minutes approved.

Councilmember Nordstrom made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Councilmember Adams. During discussion Councilmember Durham requested that the question as to who runs the Town meetings in the absence of the Mayor and the question of Council salaries be added under "Old Business". Those two items were added and the motion passed, all in favor, agenda approved.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor introduced John Avery as the new Clerk/Treasurer. The Mayor introduced a new business that will be operating in a vacant building in the Industrial Park. The business is Daystar Manufacturing and does plastic injection molding. Mr. Jay Hubbard, the owner, was not present. The Mayor introduced Mr. Cary Malkus as the new Code Enforcement Officer for the Town; he will be taking over those responsibilities from Mr. Avery. Mr. Malkus gave a few comments including that he has 11 to 12 years of experience and works for other towns also including Preston. Mayor Spratt called upon Julie Gilliard and her two sons to accept a Certificate of Appreciation from Maryland Municipal League honoring former Councilmember William Mills 20 years of service to the Town of Hurlock by being inducted into the MML Hall of Fame. Mayor Spratt presented the boys keys to the Town.

County Councilman Rick Price Report: Mr. Price reported that the County Council would be putting stipulations on how Delmarva Community Services could spend the funds that are donated to them from the County. Mr. Price said that two members of the Council will work with DCS to come to a conclusion. Councilmember Cephas asked if the County has a contingency fund, Mr. Price response was that it was done away with two years ago. Mr. Cephas asked if the County had a reserve fund and if so could funds be used from that so services would not be lost? Mr. Price responded that the County is trying to work this out and to hold on to the balance in the reserve fund. Councilmember Nordstrom asked what predicament this will put DCS in, how will it hurt them? The Mayor added that transportation is a priority, Mr. Price agreed. Councilmember Cephas stated that Dorchester County is the poorest county in the State, and the residents of the County rely on that transportation. Mr. Price again stated that the Council and DCS are working to resolve the problem.

Mr. Price reported that Dorchester County has partnered with six other eastern shore counties to get a stronger voice in the State.

Mr. Price reported that it is estimated that the implementing and completing the Phase II WIP will cost around 87 million dollars. Potential outside funding could account for half of the cost. General consensus is that clean water is important but funding is a major concern.

Councilmember Cephas asked if Maryland could be informed that Bay Fees are hurting the poorer people. He also stated that there has been public comment about the height of the grass on the sides of state roads.

Department Reports: Chief Les Hutton reported that four cameras have been ordered for officers to wear so they can document investigations. He said that these cameras are 100% funded through a State program. Capitan Henry has developed a web site for the Department, it is "Hurlockpolice.org"

Public works: The three new fire hydrants are in the Town warehouse and will installed as soon as possible.

Jerry Rhue reported that the fire department has been very busy over the last month.

Earl Murphy gave a report on the upcoming Fall Fest; he explained the number of events and he has two bands to perform at no cost. He mentioned the possibility of a jalopena pepper eating contest, there are to be six train rides and that the Striders event should be done before the first train ride. He also asked for volunteers and said that next meeting is scheduled for August 29th at 7:00 P.M.

Old Business: Councilmember Durham made a motion that a letter of support for Mom & Pop's liquor license be sent to the Dorchester County Liquor Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Henry and passed with four in favor and Councilmember Cephas abstaining.

Clerk Avery explained the budget amendment with Councilmember Nordstrom making a motion to approve the Amended Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Henry and passed with four in favor and Councilmember Cephas abstaining.

Councilmember Adams made a motion for the Councilmember at Large to conduct the Town Meeting's in the absence of the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Durham and passed with five in favor and no opposed.

Councilmember Durham brought up the issue of Councilmembers salaries and called for topic to go forward. Attorney Vinson said that he would have the documents for the next Town Meeting. Councilmember Cephas has concerns regarding State law and said it should be looked into. He also said that he wants clarification of the changes and motioned to discuss this in a work session, seconded by Councilmember Adams. Mayor Spratt stated that the proposal would go to a work session to work out the details.

New Business: Planning and Zoning Administrator John Avery described a request by Habitat for Humanity for re-subdivision of an existing lot know as 200 Jackson Street, within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Hurlock, into two residential lots. Mr. Avery went to say that all zoning requirements have been met and has been approved by the Hurlock Planning Commission. A motion was made for approval by Councilmember Nordstrom and seconded by Councilmember Cephas, the motion passed five in favor and no opposed. Ms. Julie Fox representing Habitat made a brief explanation of the Habitat program.

6:43 P.M. Councilmember Nordstrom thanked the Mayor for the new chairs and motioned to adjourn, Councilmember Henry seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted;
John Avery - Clerk



Approved 9/10/12 5 in favor 0 opposed